

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (currently amended) Optical An optical fiber cable comprising:
 - (a) an optical fiber bundle comprising a plurality of longitudinally extending optical fibers spaced from one another,
 - (b) an a solid polymer encasement having an essentially circular cross section and surrounding encasing each of the plurality of optical fibers, the solid polymer encasement having an elastic modulus greater than 210 MPa at 23 °C so that stresses on the encasement are effectively translated to the optical fiber bundle.
2. (canceled)
3. (previously presented) The optical fiber cable of claim 1 wherein the optical fibers each have centers and the center-to-center spacing of nearest neighbor optical fibers is at least $D + 20$ microns, where D is the diameter of the optical fibers.
4. (previously presented) The optical fiber cable of claim 1 wherein the optical fibers each have centers and the center-to-center spacing of nearest neighbor optical fibers is in the range $D + 20$ to $D + 150$ microns, where D is the diameter of the optical fibers.
5. (previously presented) The optical fiber cable of claim 1 wherein the optical fiber bundle comprises optical fibers randomly spaced.

6. (previously presented) The optical fiber cable of claim 5 with 1-8 optical fibers.
7. (previously presented) The optical fiber cable of claim 6 with four optical fibers having centers on the corners of a square.
8. (previously presented) The optical fiber cable of claim 1 wherein the optical fiber bundle comprises at least 3 optical fibers, the optical fibers having centers, with the centers lying on a common axis.
9. (previously presented) The optical fiber cable of claim 1 additionally including an additional polymer layer over the encasement.
10. (currently amended) The optical fiber cable of claim 6 9 wherein the additional polymer layer has an elastic modulus of at least 210 MPa at 23 °C.
11. (previously presented) The optical fiber cable of claim 1 wherein the minimum thickness of the encasement measured from the outside of an optical fiber to the outside of the encasement is in the range 50-500 microns.
12. (previously presented) The optical fiber cable of claim 1 wherein the encasement is low-density polyethylene.
13. (previously presented) The optical fiber cable of claim 1 wherein the

encasement is essentially void-free.

14. (previously presented) The optical fiber cable of claim 1 wherein the encasement is oval in cross section.